

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

CIEP-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 H-03 SS-20

NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /151 W
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O 111700Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 492

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3908

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, PO, US

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE INQUIRY CONCERNING DIRECT PURCHASE
US GRAIN

SUMMARY: EMBASSY REQUESTS URGENT REPLY TO PORTUGUESE
QUESTION ON POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT GRAIN PURCHASE.
END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE CEREALS INSTITUTE REQUESTED AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
CHECK POSSIBILITIES FOR DIRECT PURCHASES OF:
200,000 TONS OF SOFT WHEAT (FOR BREAD MAKING AND PASTAS)
800,000 TONS OF YELLOW NO. 3 AMERICAN CORN, OR EQUIVALENT
500,000/600,000 TONS OF SORGHUM OR
500,000/600,000 TONS OF BARLEY (2ND CHOICE).
INSTITUTE REQUESTED THIS BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

2. EARLIER, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE EAST ASIATIC TRADING
COMPANY, NEW YORK, N.Y. HAD INFORMED AGRICULTURAL
ATTACHE THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT INTERESTED DIRECT PURCHASE
FOLLOWING QUANTITIES OF GRAIN:
350,000 TONS OF WHEAT
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1,100,000 TONS OF CORN

450,000 TONS OF SORGHUM
100,000 TONS OF BARLEY.

3. EAST ASIATIC UNABLE MAKE SALE ALONE AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN POOL ARRANGEMENT WITH OTHER US SUPPLIER. EAST ASIATIC REP ALSO REPORTED THAT TENDER FOR 115,000 TONS FEED GRAINS ISSUED SEPTEMBER 5, 1974 WOULD BE LAST SUCH TENDER ISSUED. PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT PLANS NOW TO MAKE DIRECT PURCHASES OF GRAIN AND HAD GIVEN THEM UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15 TO COME UP WITH A FIRM DEAL.

4. COMMENT: FOR SOME TIME EMBASSY HAS HAD REPORTS THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT KEENLY INTERESTED IN ENSURING GUARANTEED GRAIN SUPPLY FOR 1974-75 AND THAT GRAINS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN LAJES BASE AGREEMENT REQUESTS. EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE STARTED ESTABLISHING FULL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE AND HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE EAGER TO BE HELPFUL TO PORTUGAL. SUPPLYING GRAINS WOULD BE ONE SUCH WAY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE HIGHLY FAVORABLE PUBLICITY AND WOULD BE ONE WAY TO UNDERCUT IMPORTANCE POSSIBLE CEREALS PACKAGE UNDER LAJES BASE AGREEMENT.

5. EMBASSY CONVINCED THAT IT IS IN USG COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL INTEREST THAT PORTUGAL GRAIN SUPPLIES COME FROM US AND THAT US FIRMS BE URGED TO COOPERATE FULLEST IN MEETING NEEDS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE REPLY BY SEPT. 13 ON POSSIBILITY DIRECT PURCHASE BY GOP OF QUANTITY CEREALS STATED IN PARA 1.
SCOTT

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NNN

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